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REMARKS AT

MILTON ACADEMY

BY

GEORGE BUSH

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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MILTON ACADEMY GRADUATION SPEECH

I HAVE REALLY BEEN WORRYING ABOUT THIS GRADUATION SPEECH. I THOUGHT I WAS NERVOUS WHEN I WENT UP BEFORE THE U. S. SENATE FOR MY JOB AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, OR CERTAINLY FOR MY PRESENT JOB--BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS...

TOO MANY RELATIVES OUT THERE.

I HAD ONE BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT--I JUST WANT TO SAY, NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD, THAT MY NEPHEW, JOE ELLIS, IS NOT, NOR HAS HE EVER BEEN, A CIA AGENT.

AFTER THE GREAT SHOW LAST FALL IN THE NOBLE'S HOCKEY GAME WHEN MILTON WAS BEHIND, WHAT WAS IT--4 TO 1 AT THE END OF THE SECOND PERIOD, AND CAME BACK FROM UTTER DISASTER TO WIN IT 5-4 IN THE FINAL GAME, I EXPECT SOME MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THE WHOLE MILTON TEAM HAD BEEN NEFARIOUSLY RECRUITED, PERHAPS WITH CIA HELP, BUT WRONG AGAIN....

TODAY I WANT TO SAY JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT COMMITMENT, CREDIBLE COMMITMENT.

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/04/26 : CIA-RDP99-01448R000502260003-1

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DUE TO THE TURMOIL OVER VIETNAM, OUR COUNTRY WENT THROUGH A PERIOD WHERE MANY OF YOUR PREDECESSORS, WHEN FINISHING MILTON--OR ANY OTHER OF OUR GREAT SCHOOLS LIKE MILTON, EMBARKED ON PROGRAMS NOT TO GIVE, BUT TO FIND.

NOT TO GIVE TO COUNTRY, OR STATE, OR COMMUNITY, BUT TO FIND - FIND THEMSELVES.

THEY SEARCHED. SOME FOUND, MANY DIDN'T.

FOR SOME IT WAS SERIOUS, FOR MANY IT WAS ESCAPE. BUT THERE WAS A DOWNSIDE COMMONALTY TO ALL OF THIS, IN MY VIEW, AND THAT WAS A LACK OF COMMITMENT.....COMMITMENT TO ANYTHING OTHER THAN ONE'S SELF.

LET ME GIVE YOU THREE BRIEF EXAMPLES OF WHAT I MEAN BY COMMITMENT, FOR COMMITMENT CAN BE DIFFICULT.

LAST YEAR, NEAR DAIREN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WE WENT HIGH ATOP A STONE MOUNTAIN TO VISIT HO MU PRODUCTION BRIGADE OF YING CHENG TZU PEOPLE'S COMMUNE. I WAS THE GUEST OF THE CHINESE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE, AND THEY WERE TAKING MRS. BUSH AND ME TO

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Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/04/26 : CIA-RDP99-01448R000502260003-1

SOME OUT OF THE WAY SPOT (OUT OF THE WAY FOR FOREIGN VISITORS AT LEAST). WE WENT TO THE GLASS FACTORY AND TO THE PORT AND TO THE LOCOMOTIVE FACTORY. AT EACH PLACE WE GOT LECTURES ON THE DEDICATION OF THE PEOPLE TO CHAIRMAN MAO AND TO HIS REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES. THE STATE AND PARTY WERE SUPREME.

CHINA HAS MADE REMARKABLE STRIDES IN MINIMAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, IN FOOD FOR 900 PLUS MILLION PEOPLE, IN CUTTING DOWN ON STREET CRIME--ALMOST TO THE POINT OF ELIMINATION--IN MANY AREAS, BUT ONLY AFTER I HAD BEEN THERE AWHILE DID I GET THE STRONG FEELING ABOUT THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

OUR BUS WORKED ITS WAY TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY UP THIS STONEY MOUNTAIN--THEN WE RAN OUT OF ROAD AND WE WALKED THE REST OF THE WAY.

THE LEADER OF THE HO MU BRIGADE WAS 35 YEARS OLD. HE BEGAN TO TELL US ABOUT HIS WORK. THEY HAD PLANTED 30,000 PEACH FRUIT TREES, HAULED OFF TONS OF ROCKS, DUG WATER WELLS, AND HAULED UP TONS OF FERTILIZER.

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/04/26 : CIA-RDP99-01448R000502260003-1

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/04/26 : CIA-RDP99-01448R000502260003-1

I LOOK AROUND AT ONE UNTOUCHED SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN, A BARREN STONE COVERED HILL, SINISTER AND UNPRODUCTIVE--AND THEN I LOOKED AT THE WORK THAT THIS MAN AND HIS PEOPLE WERE DOING--ROW UPON ROW OF PEACH TREES, TINY LITTLE SHOOTS, STUCK IN THE FORMIDABLE HILL SIDE. THE ROCKS HAD BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY UNEARTHED. THEY HAD BEEN USED TO FORM AND SHAPE THE ROWS UPON WHICH THE TREES WERE PLANTED.

ALL DONE BY HAND, THEY HAD MADE TERRACED ROW UPON TERRACED ROW FOR THE TREES TO GROW. THEY HAD FASHIONED AN AQUEDUCT SYSTEM TO POUR WATER ON THE LITTLE TREES, THEY HAD MOVED TON AFTER TON OF ROCKS. THEY HAD WORKED IN BLISTERING HEAT AND FRIGHTFUL COLD. THEY WORKED LONG, LONG HOURS. THEY TRUDGED MILES UP AND DOWN THIS MOUNTAIN.

THEIR WORK WAS IMPRESSIVE, BUT MORE IMPRESSIVE WAS THE OBVIOUS COMMITMENT OF THIS COMMUNE LEADER AND HIS COWORKERS. HE GAVE US A LECTURE ON THE LIBERATION (WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEFORE MAO) AND WHAT STRIDES HAD BEEN MADE SINCE--ALL OF THIS I HAD HEARD BEFORE, BUT

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/04/26 : CIA-RDP99-01448R000502260003-1

Declassified and Approved For Release 2012/04/26 : CIA-RDP99-01448R000502260003-1

THE THING THAT WAS REALLY IMPRESSIVE WAS THE SENSE OF PURPOSE, THE DEDICATION, THE WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE--THE COMMITMENT IF YOU WILL. THIS MAN WAS COMMITTED TO CHAIRMAN MAO, TO HIS PRINCIPLES, AND TO THE STATE.

EXAMPLE 2.....THE ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS, IN DOING HIS WORK WITH KIDS FROM ONE OF PARIS' TOUGHEST STREET GANGS, TOLD THEM THIS STORY. SOME TIME AGO THERE WAS ANOTHER GANG, MUCH LIKE YOUR GANG. THE WAY ONE GOT INTO THE GANG WAS TO DO SOMETHING WRONG--TO BREAK A LAW, TO OFFEND A TRADITION.

THE NEW KID, WANTING BADLY TO GET INTO THE GANG, WAS TOLD------ GO INTO THE CATHEDRAL AND GIVE A FALSE CONFESSION.

THE KID WENT OFF AND DID IT AND RETURNED "NOW AM I A MEMBER?" NO, HE WAS TOLD. YOU MUST FIRST DO PENANCE.

GO INTO THE CATHEDRAL, WALK UP TO THE RUDE BEAM DURING THIS LENT AND PASSION WEEK, AND SAY OUT LOUD THREE TIMES, "YOU DID IT FOR ME AND I COULDN'T CARE LESS." THE KID WENT INTO THE LOVELY CATHEDRAL

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UP TO THE RUDE BEAM, "YOU DID IT FOR ME AND I COULDN'T CARE LESS---YOU DID IT FOR ME"---AND HE STOPPED AND LEFT THE CHURCH.

THE KIDS LISTENING TO THE ARCHBISHOP, NOW ENTHRALLED, SAID WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOY...?

THE ARCHBISHOP LOOKED AT THEM----I WAS THAT BOY....

COMMITMENT? DEEP AND ABIDING COMMITMENT!

EXAMPLE 3.....A 47 YEAR OLD GREEK SCHOLAR SOME 10-15 YEARS AGO WENT TO WORK FOR THE CIA. HE GRADUATED MAGNA CUM LAUDE FROM HARVARD MAJORING IN GREEK HISTORY AND LITERATURE. HE STUDIED UNDER AND WAS INFLUENCED BY HARVARD'S GREEK SCHOLARS, PROFESSORS DOW AND FINLEY. HE SERVED IN SUICIDAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE HAD A WIFE AND SOME KIDS.

HE LOVED MUSIC, HE LOVED GREECE AND GREEK. HE LOVED TENNIS, POOL AND BILLIARDS. HE HATED CANT.

HE BELIEVED IN CIA'S MISSION.

HE WATCHED WITH SOME CONCERN, I AM SURE, AS SOME DISCOVERIES CAME OUT ON SOME THINGS THAT WERE CLEARLY WRONG AT THE AGENCY TO WHICH HE HAD DEVOTED HIS LIFE. I AM SURE HE WAS UPSET BY THESE

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REVELATIONS AND I AM EQUALLY SURE HE WAS UPSET BY THE REVELATIONS THAT CAME OUT THAT WERE NOT TRUE.

HE CONCLUDED THAT HE WANTED TO CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE INTELLIGENCE BUSINESS. HE FELT HE WAS SERVING HIS COUNTRY HONORABLY. HE WAS SERVING WITHOUT FANFARE, NO CEREMONIES, NO CREDIT IN PUBLIC PLACES, NO GLORY. HE WAS SERVING BECAUSE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD, WHICH WAS CONSIDERABLE, MADE HIM CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT--THE THREAT TO OUR COUNTRY THAT HE BELIEVED IN, THE THREAT TO THE FREEDOMS THAT THE COMMUNE LEADER IN DAIREN WILL NEVER HAVE THE LUXURY OF KNOWING, AND MORE PERSONALLY THE THREAT THAT TOTALITARIANISM COULD IMPOSE ON THIS MAN'S LOVE OF HISTORY AND CULTURE.

THIS MAN WAS TRULY COMMITTED--TO SOMETHING BEYOND HIMSELF. I CALL IT LOVE OF COUNTRY, BUT THAT'S TOO EASY FOR THIS DEEPLY THOUGHTFUL, HIGHLY CULTURED MAN. BUT THE FACT REMAINS, IN SERVING THE AGENCY I NOW HEAD, HE WAS INDEED COMMITTED TO SOMETHING FAR BIGGER THAN HIMSELF.

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TWO DAYS BEFORE LAST CHRISTMAS HE GOT OUT OF THE CAR IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE IN ATHENS, GREECE, HAVING DRIVEN HOME LATE AT NIGHT. A TERRORIST, AN ASSASSIN, GUNNED HIM DOWN WITH HIS AUTOMATIC PISTOL AND FLED.

RICHARD WELCH LAY DEAD.

RICHARD WELCH HAD BEEN COMMITTED TO FREEDOM.

TODAY YOU LEAVE THIS SCHOOL THAT HAS BEEN A MAJOR INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIVES...WHERE YOU GO IS IMPORTANT--WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS IS IMPORTANT.

THE THING THAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT IS HOW YOU GET THERE. FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COUNTRY, FOR THE SAKE OF THE BASIC VALUES THAT HAVE SERVED US WELL FOR 200 YEARS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU GET THERE WITH COMMITMENT.

THANK YOU.

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